

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 17434 280840Z
ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 17434

EXDIS

FOR STR STRAUSS FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAGR, JA
SUBJECT: AGRICULTURAL NEGOTIATIONS IN MTN

REF; TOKYO 17241

1. AS YOU NEAR THE FINAL STAGES OF DISCUSSIONS WITH JAPAN ON AGRICULTURE, I CANNOT STRESS TOO STRONGLY IMPORTANCE OF YOUR NEGOTIATIONS WITH MINISTER NAKAGAWA. PARTY ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD IN DECEMBER AFTER WHICH THERE WILL QUITE POSSIBLY BE A CABINET RESHUFFLE. VERY VERY POSSIBLE THAT AT THAT TIME, AS IS THE JAPANESE CUSTOM, A MUCH CHANGED CABINET WILL BE NAMED AND NAKAGAWA WILL BE OUT AS AGRICULTURE MINISTER. HE WILL THEN NO LONGER BE ABLE TO CALL THE SHOTS, OVERRULING HIS CONSERVATIVE BUREAUCRATS AND THE ENTRENCHED PATTERN OF INTERESTS HERE. NAKAGAWA IS THE BEST OF ALL POSSIBLE PEOPLE TO DEAL WITH IN AGRICULTURAL MATTERS AS HE AND HE ALONE HAS THE NECESSARY CLOUT, PRESTIGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF INTERNATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE OF WHAT HE MUST DO TO GET THINGS ACCOMPLISHED WITHIN REASONABLE LIMITS. HE CONSIDERS HIMSELF A COURAGEOUS POLITICIAN, AND SO DO I, MOTIVATED BY A SENSE OF JAPAN'S TRUE NATIONAL INTEREST.
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PAGE 02 TOKYO 17434 280840Z

HE IS WIDELY RECOGNIZED HERE AS HAVING GONE FURTHER IN CONCESSIONS TO US THAN ANY OF HIS PREDECESSORS WOULD HAVE OR HIS SUCCESSORS WOULD. WITHOUT HIM, WE WILL BE IN REAL TROUBLE IF WE HAVE NOT ALREADY REACHED SOME SOLUTIONS.

2. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR GIVING YOUR PERSONAL DETAILED

CONSIDERATION TO THE CURRENT STATE OF PLAY AND YOUR
PERSONAL COURTEOUS ATTENTION TO NAKAGAWA WHEN NEXT YOU
MEET HIM. HE IS A MAN TO CULTIVATE AND
REASON WITH AND ONE WHO WANTS TO SOLVE PROBLEMS. IT
WILL TURN HIM OFF TO TREAT HIM OTHERWISE.
MANSFIELD

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NNN

Message Attributes

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